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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BROWN of Maryland).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 7, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANTHONY G. BROWN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 10, 2022, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

CONGRESS MUST END THE FENTANYL CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. STEIL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, 64,000 Americans died from fentanyl and its analogs in a recent 12-month period. It is the leading cause of death in the United States for individuals aged 18 to 45. Fentanyl has killed more people aged 18 to 45 than car accidents, than suicide, than COVID. Again, it killed 64,000 Americans in a 12-month period.

I recently spoke to two parents who lost a child to fentanyl.

Congress must act.

What is fentanyl? Fentanyl and fentanyl analogs are synthetic opioids that have a real risk of abuse and dependence. It is an unusually dangerous and an unusually deadly drug, and many of the victims are not even aware they are taking it.

Where are the drugs coming from? This drug is often manufactured in high quantities in China and is pouring across our southern border. And it is getting worse.

Last year, fentanyl seizures across our southern border increased by over 1,000 percent. Border agents captured 588 pounds of this drug. To conceptualize that, that is enough to kill 133 million Americans.

I have been to the southern border, and I have spoken firsthand to the men and women of Border Protection about the increased drugs coming across our southern border.

We must secure our border. We cannot stand by and watch as Americans are killed by fentanyl and its analogs.

We should continue to be focused on limiting the flow of fentanyl coming into our country. We should be raising awareness of the lethal effects of fentanyl. We should be helping local law enforcement and our first responders work to address this crisis.

In 11 days, fentanyl analogs and related substances will no longer be a schedule I drug. The fentanyl analogs schedule I status expires on February 18, in 11 days.

Congress previously kicked the can down the road and temporarily extended fentanyl analogs as a schedule I drug last May, but that expires in 11 days.

If fentanyl analogs are not extended or made permanent soon, law enforcement officers will have a hand tied behind their back from stopping fentanyl from killing Americans.

Yet Speaker PELOSI continues to refuse to bring the HALT Act, critical

legislation, to this floor to make scheduling permanent. We need to make scheduling fentanyl analogs permanent.

I call upon my fellow Members of Congress to help us end the fentanyl crisis.

RUNAWAY INFLATION IS HURTING EVERY HOUSEHOLD IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to once again address the crisis hurting every household in America: runaway inflation.

The January 12 Consumer Price Index report showed inflation has increased 7 percent over the last 12 months, the fastest increase since 1982.

Rural communities are being hit harder than anyone else. In my district, inflation has increased 8 percent over the past year. Americans are paying more for essentials everywhere, from the grocery store to the gas station, and working families are being hit the hardest.

Like many of my colleagues, I believe the primary driver of this inflation is unchecked government spending. Unfortunately, even though inflation has reached historic highs, this issue continues to be ignored by many of my Democrat colleagues.

Whether you agree with me or not, we owe it to the American people to identify the root cause and begin to address the problem. I have introduced legislation to do just that, and I hope all of my colleagues will join me in supporting efforts that put an end to this ongoing problem that harms every single American, especially those living paycheck to paycheck and trying to raise a family.

RECOGNIZING DEPUTY CHIEF DAN SZYKULSKI

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Deputy Chief

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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